

Report to the Faculty
Sara Freeman, Chair of Faculty Senate
September 25, 2018

Campus Events

I write this report two days before the Fourth quadrennial Race and Pedagogy Conference begins on campus, an event happening in concert with Family and Homecoming Weekend. Years of work have gone into the programming for the coming three days. I am in the thick of stage managing for the four extraordinary keynote speeches and I am deeply excited to hear Brian Cladoosby, Jeff Chang, Valerie Jarrett, Alicia Garza, and Patrisse Cullors speak. The spotlight sessions and concurrent panels also feature a very wide range of faculty presenting about their scholarship, their cross-campus collaborations, and their pedagogical practices. I think I can safely say that as a faculty, we are *here* for the RPNC.

Coming fast on the heels of those encompassing events, campus will host the fall Board of Trustees Meeting on October 3-5. I offer my hearty thanks to Professors Brown, Jacobson, and Hale who will be attending Trustees meetings in my stead since I will be at my brother's wedding during those days – I am comforting myself that there are many Trustees meetings in the future for me to attend, whereas the wedding is happening only once. Faculty Senate will look forward to hearing reports about the Trustees proceedings and continuing to engage with our partners in shared governance.

Senate Work

Since the last full faculty meeting, the Senate completed the process of providing additional charges to each of the standing committees. The Senate responded to resolutions passed by the Curriculum Committee in spring 2018 about a need to help the CC and the Committee on Diversity navigate shared business related to campus diversity initiatives. The Senate also opened the possibility of changing the makeup of the Library and Media Service Committee. The Senate is following up on both fronts.

In our meetings so far, it has been a pleasure to start to get to know Dr. Uchenna Baker, Dean of Students. She is a welcome addition to our proceedings.

The Senate is moving forward with the motion from last spring to amend the code language related to tenure and promotion to full professor. As this motion returns to the full faculty for its second reading on October 3, the Senate is aware that junior faculty may feel less free to speak about their evaluation of the proposed changes. I urge colleagues to share perspectives with Senators, who can share representative viewpoints when faculty members don't wish to speak in full meeting.

The Senate also continues to discuss next steps related to initiatives in the draft Strategic Plan (*Leadership for a Changing World: Puget Sound Strategic Plan 2018-2028*), pursuing especially the desire for further conversation among faculty. In her report, the Provost is sharing a link to

the feedback from the August 23 workshop. For the October 3 Faculty meeting, I've put it on the agenda to have some open discussion time to invite us to explore what it means to act in relation to the strategic plan, and how the faculty wants to do that. Additionally, the Faculty Senate will spend a session in informal conversation with President Crawford in the early evening on October 10. As we approach Fall Break, the Senate will weigh what those conversations have produced.

Looking ahead at work to come for the Faculty Senate — colleagues from Student Affairs will share the draft revision of Student Integrity Code; the Senate will review the draft policy on "Academic Freedom and the Exercise of Free Speech" begun last year; and we will return to the initiatives to equalize the semester calendar, continue evaluation of common hour, and explore the need for set meeting times for standing committees. Stay tuned into 2019.

An Appreciation

On the occasion of the Provost announcing her intention to transition back to the faculty, and move into a sabbatical next year, I would like to take a moment to appreciate Kris Bartanen. Her long tenure in leadership on campus stands as a truly inspirational record. I am saddened that I will not have more time to work with her; likewise, I am thankful for the period I have been a faculty member, department chair, committee chair, and now leader of Faculty Senate with her as head of the academic division. The retirements and staffing changes of the last few years seem to mark a time of generational change on campus: it is daunting to recognize this period of change. I also want to express deep admiration for Kris, and for the hope, excitement, and good guidance she provided even in her letter outlining her transition plan.

Sincerely,

Sara